

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AID-20 IGA-02 IO-14 DPW-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8741

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 16588

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, GW, VS

SUBJECT: GERMAN AID FOR SOUTH VIETNAM

REF: SAIGON 18544

EMBOFF DISCUSSED THE RECENT VISIT OF GERMAN OFFICIALS TO SOUTH VIETNAM WITH TEAM LEADER TRUHART OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE AND BARTHELT OF THE AID MINISTRY. THESE OFFICIALS CONFIRMED FRG PLANS FOR PROVIDING DM 49 MILLION IN LOANS TO GVN WITH PROJECT BREAKDOWN AS OUTLINED IN REFTEL. THEY SAID FRG ALSO CONSIDERING DM 2 MILLION IN GRANT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BE USED IN THE SLAUGHTERHOUSE PROJECT AND THE AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION LOAN. ONCE THE TOTAL PROGRAM IS APPROVED BY AID MINISTER EPPLER, FRG WILL COMMIT FUNDS IN A LETTER TO GVN. AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION PROJECT CAN THEN BE IMPLEMENTED IMMEDIATELY; OTHER PROJECTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED ONCE THE NECESSARY INVESTIGATION BY GERMAN AID TECHNICIANS IS COMPLETED, A PROCESS WHICH BARTHELT EXPECTS TO BE CONCLUDED VERY RAPIDLY.

2. BARTHELT SAID THAT FRG BUDGET FOR 1973 HAD INCLUDED
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DM 40 MILLION EACH FOR NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAM AND

THAT FOR POLITICAL REASONS GOVERNMENT HAD HOPED TO IMPLEMENT THESE PROGRAMS AT THE SAME TIME. FRG DOES NOT INTEND TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO NORTH VIETNAM UNTIL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ARE ESTABLISHED HOWEVER SO THE AID MINISTRY DECIDED TO GO AHEAD WITH THE PROGRAM TO SOUTH VIETNAM AT THIS TIME SO THAT 1973 FUNDS WOULD NOT BE LOST.

3. BARTHELT SAID THAT IT WOULD BE EASIER FOR THE FRG TO PROVIDE AID TO THE NORTH THAN TO THE SOUTH PRIMARILY BECAUSE THERE IS NO WAR GOING ON IN THE NORTH BUT ALSO BECAUSE THERE IS MORE DOMESTIC POLITICAL PRESSURE TO HELP THE NORTH THAN THE SOUTH. HE SAID THAT THE PROJECTS THAT WERE SELECTED IN THE SOUTH WERE ONES THAT WERE NOT LIKELY TO BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED IN THE CASES OF VIET CONG TAKE-OVER OF AREAS NOW CONTROLLED BY THE GVN.

4. BARTHELT SAID THAT FRG DOES NOT PLAN ANY PUBLICITY FOR ITS AID PROGRAM TO SOUTH VIETNAM. HE INTERPRETED THE LACK OF PUBLICITY IN SIAGON DURING THE TEAM'S VISIT THERE TO THE GVN'S RECOGNITION OF THE SENSITIVITY OF THIS ISSUE IN GERMANY.
HILLENBRAND

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